



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS
245 MCKEE ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904
Telephone: (302) 739-5601
Fax: (302) 739-8220

November 13, 2007

Contact: John R. Painter
E-mail: john.painter@state.de.us
Office: 302.857.5232

PRESS RELEASE

Sussex Correctional Institution Embraces 'Toys for Tots' Campaign

The Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) in Georgetown is taking an active role in this year's U.S. Marine Corps Reserve 'Toys for Tots' Program, and the creative and artistic talents of some facility offenders are being used to entice people to participate.

Offenders in the Lifer's Group, residents of the Merit Building, as well as participants in various art and special projects groups, have been busy making ornaments for an exchange tree that stands in the toy drop-off area in the lobby. The concept is to donate a toy and take an ornament from the tree.

Ornaments range from traditional Christmas themes of Santa Claus, decorated trees, stockings, red-nosed reindeer and snowmen, to picture frames woven from interlocking paper.

"Creating these ornaments gives the offenders a way to not only celebrate the season, but to also give back to the community by supporting the Toys for Tots program," said SCI warden Michael DeLoy. "They are taking tremendous pride in their work, and the ornaments are very well done."

Along with being able to select an ornament from the exchange tree, those who donate a new, unwrapped toy for the campaign also have a chance to win one of two winter-themed paintings done by members of the Art Group.

The toy drive, which was suggested and organized by SCI employee Donna Tregoe, runs through December 14. It is primarily geared for participation from SCI staff, additional Department of Correction personnel visiting the facility, and those at the prison for offender visits. All of the toys collected will be distributed locally to help needy children experience the joy of Christmas.

